



Autism Council Meeting Minutes

Lewis Cass Building

Friday August 23, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Colleen Allen, Chairperson	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Rhonda Fossitt	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Elizabeth Knisely	Michigan Department of Community Health
Jane Turner	Michigan State University
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	Autism Alliance of Michigan
MDCH STAFF PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Morgan Aue	MDCH, Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Officer Edward Barrett	Lewis Cass Building / Michigan State Police
Lisa Grost	MDCH, Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lori Irish	Michigan Department of Community Health
Kaitlyn Longoria	MDCH, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
Karla Ruest	Michigan Department of Community Health
Lynda Zeller	MDCH, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
COUNCIL GUESTS	ORGANIZATION



Yasmina Bouraoui	Developmental Disabilities Council
Jamesena Ingram	DWWCMH-Autism Council
Barbara Leroy	Wayne State University
Audra Parsons	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)
Stephanie Peterson	Western Michigan University
James T. Todd	Eastern Michigan University
Lisa Todd	Western Michigan University- State of Michigan

ROLL CALL

A Roll Call of the Council members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Colleen Allen, Autism Council Chairperson, introduced the guests of the Council.

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Colleen Allen at 9:06 a.m. A quorum was present for today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Colleen Allen called for a **MOTION** to approve the meeting agenda as written. Jane Turner made a MOTION to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Mary Chaliman. The **MOTION** carried. .

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

Chair Colleen Allen called for a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Michael Caine made requested his name be changed from Michigan to Michael. Colleen Allen called for a **MOTION** to approve the amended minutes for the June meeting. Michael Caine made a **MOTION** to approve the amended minutes, and it was seconded by Amy Matthews. The **MOTION** carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary- Karla Ruest

Karla Ruest, the MDCH Legislative Liaison, reported that the legislature has been out on summer break; however, the state has been diligently working on Medicaid reform, and



they are expected to vote on August 27th or 28th. Medicaid reform will expand Medicaid coverage to all individuals making less than 133% of the poverty rate. MDCH is very hopeful legislature will move forward. Ms. Ruest asked that if you feel strongly about Medicaid reform to contact your local legislator.

Ms. Ruest also informed the Council that Medicaid expansion will not directly impact Autism Services; specifically, it will not expand the coverage beyond six years for Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy. The waiver system currently in place will continue.

Medicaid expansion will instead fill the financial gap between private pay and Medicaid. If Medicaid expansion passes, it will result in healthier families. This is based on the number of currently uninsured individuals who fall below 133% of the poverty level in Michigan but do not yet qualify for Medicaid.

BCBA Legislation- Jim Todd (EMU)

Mr. Todd briefed the Council on the BCBA Legislation which has been put together jointly with Wayne Fuqua of Western Michigan University.

Mr. Todd explained that although the Autism Legislature states that BCBA's are reimbursable, the insurance companies prefer to have licensed individuals provide treatment.

The BCBA legislation will define and regulate a BCBA licensure. Mr. Todd briefed that there will be a nine person licensing board; which will include at least one individual from a university to ensure that educational and professional requirements are seamless. The legislation will also define Assistant Behavior Analyst, and Applied Behavior Analyst Technician.

The Technician will not be a licensure process, but instead will be a registration process, with licensure being limited to advanced level staff.

Grandfather clauses are built into the legislation to alleviate immediate stipulations being applied to current credentialed BCBA's. Regulation changes will be applied to upcoming BCBA's; and steps will need to be taken for current BCBA's to acquire licensure.

The licensure process will not involve much reciprocity from outside states. All BCBA's are nationally certified, and therefore will have all the necessary requirements to obtain licensure through the state upon relocation.

All additional credentials and licensing fees will not be changed, and applicable costs and fees will still apply.



Mr. Todd informed the Council that the legislation is expected to be introduced in a few weeks. It is currently located in Senator Warren's office.

Colleen Allen expressed her sincere thanks to Jim Todd and Wayne Fuqua for their extensive work on the legislation.

STANDING REPORTS

Council Chair / Autism Alliance of Michigan – Colleen Allen

Colleen Allen reported that for there were upcoming charity events for the Autism Alliance; golf outing on August 26, booth at Ford Arts, Beats, and Eats August 30. AAoM will have additional fundraiser events this fall with the proceeds going towards programming.

Amy Matthews and Colleen Allen are participating with 25-30 Council Taskforce leadership groups all over the country. There will be a Leadership summit at OCALI on November 19th, in Columbus Ohio. Colleen Allen will distribute the agenda to the Council.

Colleen Allen asked the Council to assist in establishing a protocol for handling proposals seeking endorsement from the Autism Council.

The Council came up with the below process, which will be as follows:

1. Request will be submitted to the Council.
2. Chairperson and Co-Chairperson will screen it.
3. If applicable, they will direct to the appropriate subcommittee for review, carbon copying the rest of the Council members.
4. The subcommittee will then make a recommendation to the full Council on whether or not to endorse it.
5. The Council will take a vote, and it will pass, fail, or motion to postpone by majority.

Colleen Allen proposed a **MOTION** to accept the endorsement approval process. Michael Caine proposed a **MOTION**, Liz Knisely seconded. The **MOTION** carried.

Council Secretary / Autism Alliance of Michigan – Stacie Rulison

Not in attendance.

Michigan Department of Human Services- Mary Chaliman



Mary Chaliman reported DHS is working with MDCH on a Psychotropic Program for Foster Children. On August 22nd, Civil Service approved DHS's proposal to hire an individual specifically focused on Psychotropic programs for Foster Children.

Michigan State University- Jane Turner

Jane Turner updated the Council that a lot of ground work going on amongst the community and commercial providers; specifically, collaborating with CMH's to determine protocol for making calls and streamlining services/ evaluations. There is a lot of interest and input being put into the next steps. It was reported that it would be helpful to have road maps from the Council to help with next steps in the community.

Michigan Department of Education- Joanne Winkelman

Nothing to report.

Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services- Rhonda Fossitt

Rhonda Fossitt reported DIFS has a crucial role in Federal Health Care Reform. DIFS in partnership with the Federal government is working with health insurers to have them approved along with the Federal Health Exchange requirements. To date, there are 14 insurance companies and 170 total plans which have been approved in Michigan for the Health Care Exchange. Enrollment will be October 1, 2013. All plans are state compliant; which includes Autism and Mental health parity coverage.

Ms. Fossitt briefed that the cost of Insurance from the Federal Health Exchange will be based on income. An individual will be able to purchase coverage for themselves or their family, and if their annual income is below 400% of the poverty level, they will receive a prorated insurance premium.

Ms. Fossitt reaffirmed that the Affordable Care Act does not negatively impact Medicaid coverage. Medicaid Expansion, if passed in Michigan, will cover up to 133% above poverty level.

Michigan School Districts/Haslett Public Schools – Michael Caine

Michael Caine reported that there were six Autism breakouts during the Michigan Association of Special Education Conference, August 11-14, 2013, Grand Traverse Resort.

Michigan Department of Community Health - Elizabeth Knisely

Elizabeth Knisely reported that 255 children have been approved for the Autism benefit. Lisa Grost continues to have monthly webinars with the Community Mental Health Service Providers; Ms. Grost is utilizing needs survey to assess the population and identify topics for additional webinars.



Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Michigan are working to identify a Community Mental Health which will serve as the pilot to conduct commercial Autism screening on site. Clinton Eaton and Ingham County (CEI) Community Mental Health Center will tentatively serve as the pilot location. (Robert Sheehan).

The Autism Program Coordinator has been meeting with the four universities which have received funds from the Department of Community Health for 2014.

Ms. Knisely also reported that the Mental Health Funds, in the amount of 2.5 million dollars, will hopefully serve to fill the gap for home based services for children with serious emotional disturbance who do not have Medicaid, but may be underinsured and not receiving adequate care. Funds will be used for first aid training also.

Grand Valley State University (GVSU) – Amy Matthews

Amy Matthews reported to the Council there have been an influx in trainings due to the start of the school year. Ms. Matthews also reported that there have been continued meetings with Regional Collaborative Networks with the purpose of keeping an open line of communication with the schools and communities.

Autism Alliance- Anthony Ianni

Anthony Ianni reported that he had upcoming speaking engagements as an Autism and Bullying advocate, which will be occurring statewide. This large initiative and the kickoff is scheduled for 9:00 a.m Thursday, September 26th on the steps of the Capital. The purpose of the Event is assist everyone in relating to what children who are bullied go through from those action whether or not they are on the spectrum. The Autism Alliance will distribute the calendar of speaking engagements to the Council. Mr. Ianni also noted that there will be numerous celebrity athletes at the upcoming AAoM golf outing fundraiser.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Early Identification Early Intervention (EIEI) - Amy Matthews

Amy Matthews reported that the first full committee last month, and that there continues to be a lot of interest in the group, and the committee members are very dedicated. There were approximately 20 people assigned to the core group, plus an additional 30 people on the advisory committee.

Ms. Matthews reported the subcommittees were narrowed down even further into, screening, evaluation/diagnostic, and intervention groups. The screening and evaluation/diagnostic will be working closely together. Another meeting will be held today, August 23, focusing on ASD State Plan recommendation areas; with the real intent of pushing out products that can quickly assist families.



Lisa Grost thanked Amy Matthews for being the pilot subcommittee group for the website template. This is helping the Autism Program Staff to have a more complete understanding of what should be placed on the webpage. Amy Matthews specifically thanked Min Lee for doing the work for the pilot.

Early Identification Early Intervention (EIEI)/Identification – Jane Turner

Jane Turner reported the EIEI subcommittee is looking for additional ways for more assistance to be applied to the impacted individuals early on. Ms. Turner is waiting to hear on HRSA grant which would assist the Identification group's efforts, and she should know by mid-September. They are extremely hopeful they will receive this grant. Ms. Turner reported the HRSA grant will allow the group to establish a blue print of where they want to go. This plan specifically focuses on training primary physicians on screening, identification, and an overall understanding of ASD. The group has also been working with the AAoM and Michigan AAP to create trainings for parents, community partners, and advocacy groups. Ms. Turner and Colleen Allen are doing a presentation for Michigan AAP.

Adult Service Subcommittee- Michael Caine

Michael Caine reported 30 people were in attendance at the meeting on July 30, 2013. The group discussed the specific focus groups. Additional meetings are scheduled for the rest of the year. The group members will be on the core and/or advisory committee. The work groups are broken down into Secondary Transitional programming, Public and Community Programming, Employment, and Housing Committees.

Education Subcommittee- Joanne Winkelman

Joanne Winkelman reported that the Education Subcommittee leaders, herself, Diane Heizelman, Michael Caine, and Amy Matthews, met at Michigan Association of Special Education Conference. Ms. Winkelman reported they will have a planning meeting for Education on October 8th, 2013. At this meeting, they will discuss next steps and plan future meeting dates. The leadership will assess gaps in personnel representation, and will pull in additional people if necessary.

Insurance Ad Hoc Update- Colleen Allen

Colleen Allen reported that the insurance ad-hoc has not recently met. Their next meeting is scheduled for September, 11, 2013. Additional topics related to therapy will be discussed.

Colleen Allen reported that there are significant issues related to payment; specifically Blue Cross is informing them that systems aren't set up yet to pay the providers. Some



Providers have had to take out loans to cover expenses, and now the payments are falling onto families to pay these delinquent bills.

Rhonda Fossitt reported that there had been \$210,000 in claims submitted. There is currently \$150,000.00 which is due out to Blue Care Network. It was reported diagnostic issues appear to be mitigated, and Blue Care Network is looking for licensed professionals and taking it case by case in order to minimize the waitlists. As of October 31, 2013 Blue Care Network will revert back to a center requirement.. There have been additional 5-7 applications for Centers across the state.

Crisis Management Ad Hoc- Elizabeth Knisely

Ms. Knisely reported on August 19 the Crisis Management Ad Hoc Committee met. The intent is to invite individuals who are currently participating in similar groups to join together. The Community as a whole is having a difficult time providing services to these individuals through facilities, treatment, and family.

Additionally, as of January 1, 2014 the State of Michigan will have 10 PIHP regions, and each must have a crisis response program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Subcommittee Selection/ Acceptance Update – Amy Matthews **

The Education Subcommittee Leadership will solidify applicants, and Kaitlyn Longoria will send out the invitation letters.

NEW BUSINESS

2013 and 2014 Meeting Schedule – Colleen Allen and Lisa Grost

Colleen Allen provided sincere thanks to Lisa Grost for sending out the meeting schedule survey to help identify the best date and time for the Council meetings. The Council will continue to meet on Friday's.

Lisa Grost reported that Robert Sheehan has resigned from the Council. Ms. Grost asked the Council to propose personnel to replace Mr. Sheehan, and submit them to Department of Community Health leadership. The Council hopes to vote in another member at the next meeting. Elizabeth Knisely recommended Rich Vandenheuval (PIHP West Michigan), John Kintch (Macomb CMH), or Mary Klissel (CEI CMH). Robert Sheehan recommended Scott Gilman (Kent County).

Western Michigan University Autism Center of Excellence- Stephanie Peterson

Stephanie Peterson briefed the Council on the Western Michigan University Center of Excellence related to Autism. Ms. Peterson submitted a variation of the proposal to the state, and they are hopeful it will be looked at this upcoming year. Western Michigan



University believes it may be helpful for the Autism Council to look at the proposal, and see if they are supportive of the proposal. The ultimate goal for the Center of Excellence would be for it to be self-sustaining, and to produce an additional 140 more BCBA's annually. Ms. Peterson asked for the Council's endorsement, and/or feedback for improvement. Colleen Allen informed Ms. Peterson that the Council will assess and make a decision based on the committee's recommendations.

PRESENTATIONS

Employment First – Yasmina Bouraoui

Yasmina Bouraoui, the Deputy of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council briefed the Council as a member of the Economic Justice workgroup Employment First workgroup, and on behalf of the Adult Services Subcommittee. Employment First is a national program created to change the expectations for disabled personnel to be encouraged to become a part of the competitive employment; the program is centered on the belief that everyone is employable, it is simply finding the right fit.

On Behalf of the Adult Services Subcommittee, Ms. Bouraoui requested the Autism Council to endorse the Employment First initiative. A white paper was requested about this initiative to be provided to the Council members.

Elizabeth Knisely recommended the MDCH bring in two national level experts to facilitate a discussion, and decide the states recommendation. Ms. Knisely also requested the vote on the endorsement be deferred until after personnel are brought in to facilitate the discussion and the white paper is provided to the Council members.

Lisa Grost will work with Joe Longcor to schedule a meeting with the two facilitators, and distribute the information to the Council.

START- Amy Matthews

This Issue was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lewis Cass Building.